

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SECTO 13034 312132Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 SP-02 INR-07 PRS-01 CCO-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /036 W
-----052277 312135Z /73

Z O 312047Z DEC 77 ZFF-3
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN TEHRAN
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV FLASH
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO FLASH
JAMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEHRAN SECTO 13034

FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJ: VISIT OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO EGYPT

1. PLEASE GET IN TOUCH QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WITH
BEGIN OR DAYAN TO TELL THEM THE FOLLOWING.

2. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT
SADAT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A BRIEF (ONE HOUR) STOP-OVER IN
EGYPT FOR A MEETING WITH SADAT ON ROUTE FROM RIYADH TO
PARIS. WE HAVE HAD INDICATIONS THAT SADAT WOULD FIND
SUCH A MEETING USEFUL AT THIS TIME. SINCE THE TWO
PRESIDENTS HAVE NOT MET SUBSEQUENT TO SADAT'S VISIT TO
WASHINGTON AND LAST HIGHLEVEL MEETING WITH SADAT WAS
DURING SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP IN AUGUST, ALL OF
WHICH PRECEDED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS SET IN TRAIN BY
SADAT'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM, THE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED
THAT A MEETING WITH SADAT IN THE COURSE OF HIS PRESENT
TRIP COULD HELP MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THE PEACE
EFFORT IN WHICH EGYPT AND ISRAEL ACTIVELY ENGAGED.

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THIS SEEMED TO US ALL THE MORE DESIRABLE SINCE THE
PRESIDENT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY SO RECENTLY TO MEET WITH
PRIME MINISTER BEGIN DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

3. HAVING HAD INDICATIONS THAT SADAT WOULD WELCOME
A MEETING, WE ASKED AMBASSADOR EILTS TODAY TO INQUIRE
WHETHER A BRIEF STOP-OVER IN ASWAN EARLY WEDNESDAY

MORNING, JANUARY 4, WOULD BE POSSIBLE. IN DOING SO, WE TOLD SADAT THAT WE WOULD WANT TO HOLD ANY ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL WE COULD INFORM ISRAEL AND OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS. WE HAVE JUST HAD A RESPONSE FROM SADAT THAT HE WOULD WELCOME THE VISIT AT THE TIME SUGGESTED. SIMULTANEOUSLY, WE HAVE SEEN PRESS REPORTS FROM EGYPT THAT SADAT HAD TOLD US MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES THAT A MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN ASWAN, WITH THE PRECISE TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED ON SUNDAY. IN LIGHT OF THIS, WE HAVE CONFIRMED TO THE PRESS HERE THAT A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT SADAT WILL TAKE PLACE. WE INTENDED TO INFORM ISRAELIS PRIOR TO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ONCE WE HAD CONFIRMATION FROM SADAT AND REGRET THAT STORY HAS BROKEN BEFORE WE COULD DO SO. WE ARE CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT ISRAELIS WILL UNDERSTAND IMPORTANCE OF SUCH A MEETING AT THIS TIME, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT PRESIDENT HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR EXTENSIVE EXCHANGES WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN IN RECENT PAST.

4. FOR JIDDA. DRAWING AS APPROPRIATE ON ABOVE, YOU SHOULD INFORM SAUDIS OF PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED MEETING WITH SADAT. IN DOING SO, YOU SHOULD TELL SAUDIS THAT WE HAD PLANNED TO INFORM THEM BEFORE THIS BECAME PUBLIC AND THAT MEETING WITH SADAT WILL REQUIRE ADVANCING DEPARTURE FROM RIYADH TO 7:00 AM
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RIYADH TIME.

5. FOR DAMASCUS. IN YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY ALSO DRAW AS APPROPRIATE ON ABOVE TO INFORM SYRIANS.
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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SECTO13034
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780004-0861
Format: TEL
From: SECRETARY TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977121/aaaaaakp.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 58df20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 100900
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO EGYPT
TAGS: OVIP, US, EG, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: TEL AVIV STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/58df20fb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009